

Teaching Double Bass Technique Through Orchestral Excerpts

For Beginning and Intermediate Bassists

Presented by Sidney A. King

*Professor of Double Bass and Music Education
University of Louisville School of Music*

Basic Articulation

Fiddles on Fire by Mark Williams, Grade 1

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29 *Play 2nd time only*

30 31 32 33

34 35 36 **37**

Basic Pizzicato Technique and Left Hand Shape

Apollo Suite by Merle J. Isaac, Grade 1

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Allegretto

The musical score is written for a single staff in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The piece begins with a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) instruction. The first measure is marked with a dynamic of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score consists of three lines of music. The first line contains measures 1 through 8, with fingerings 1, 4, 1, 2, and 4 indicated above the notes. A circled number 9 is placed below the staff after the eighth measure. The second line contains measures 9 through 16. The third line contains measures 17 through 20, with fingerings 4, 1, 4, and 1 indicated above the notes. A circled number 17 is placed above the staff at the beginning of the third line. The piece concludes with a dynamic of *p* (piano) in the final measure.

pizz.

mf

1 4

1 2 4

9

17

p

Slurs and String Crossings

Dragon Dances by Soon Hee Newbold, Grade 2

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The image displays a musical score for the piece "Dragon Dances" by Soon Hee Newbold, Grade 2. The score is written for a single staff in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, many of which are beamed together and slurred. Measure numbers 46 through 59 are indicated above the notes. Measure 53 is highlighted with a box. A fermata is placed over measure 52, and a breath mark (V) is placed above measure 54. The score is divided into three systems: the first system contains measures 46-50, the second system contains measures 51-56, and the third system contains measures 57-59.

46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55 56

57 58 59

Bow Distribution

Ventus by Todd Parrish, Grade 3

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Maestoso con moto ♩ = 116



Hooked Bowing and Shifting

Dance Scenario by Elliot del Borgo, Grade 2

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4 1 - 1

73

Bow Technique: Spiccato

Can-Can by Jacques Offenbach, arr. Richard Meyer, Grade 1

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The musical score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five staves of music, with measures numbered 27 through 52. The notation includes various bowing techniques and dynamics.

Staff 1 (Measures 27-33): Measure 27 is marked *arco* and *p*. Measures 28-30 are quarter notes. Measure 31 is marked *spiccato* and *cresc.*. Measures 32-33 are marked *simile*.

Staff 2 (Measures 34-38): Measure 34 is marked *f*. Measures 35-36 are quarter notes. Measure 37 is marked *ff*. Measure 38 is a quarter note.

Staff 3 (Measures 39-43): Measures 39-43 are eighth notes.

Staff 4 (Measures 44-49): Measure 44 is a quarter note. Measure 45 is marked with a bracket. Measures 46-49 are eighth notes.

Staff 5 (Measures 50-52): Measure 50 is a quarter note. Measure 51 is marked with a bracket. Measure 52 is a quarter note.

Left Hand Speed and Bow Usage

Dance of the Tumblers by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, arr. Sandra Dackow, Grade 2

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18 19 20 21 22 23

ff *div.* *V* *V* *V* *V*

* Divide according to Players' ability

Shifting, String Crossings and Articulation

From “*Toccatina*” by William Hofeldt, Grade 3

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The musical score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 47 through 52, and the second staff contains measures 53 through 57. Measure 55 is highlighted with a box. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (*dim.*, *mp*), articulation (>), and performance instructions (*arco*). The notation shows a sequence of notes with stems, including some with flags, and a final measure with a fingering sequence 1 4 - 2 4.

Measures 47-52 (Staff 1):
47: Rest
48: Quarter note (B-flat), >, *dim.*
49: Quarter note (A), >
50: Quarter note (G), >
51: Quarter note (F), >, *arco*, 4
52: Quarter note (E), >, 1 4 - 2 4

Measures 53-57 (Staff 2):
53: Quarter note (D), >
54: Quarter note (C), >
55: Quarter note (B-flat), >, *mp*
56: Quarter note (A), >
57: Quarter note (G), >

Shifting, Vibrato and Pivot

Conquistador! by Deborah Baker Monday, Grade 2

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22 23 24 25 **pizz.** 26 27

mf

28 29 30 31 32 33 **arco** 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

f

Legato, Lyric Playing, Finger Spacing and Dynamics

Luminescence by Alan Lee Silva, Grade 1.5

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19 Slightly Slower

19 *mf* *legato* 20 *f* 21 22 23 *mf* 24 *f*

27 Tempo I *espressivo-bring out*

25 26 27 *legato* 28 29

30 31 32 33

Half Position and Shifting

Russian Sailor's Dance by Rheinhold Gliere, arr. Michael Allen, Grade 3

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Allegro ♩ = 120

The musical score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 2/4. It consists of four staves of music, each with a measure number (8, 15, 22) at the beginning. The first staff starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second staff includes fingerings (1 - 1 2 4 0 1 - 1 4 0 - 1 2) and dynamics (*mf* and *cresc.*). The third staff includes fingerings (4 - 1 2 4) and dynamics (*f* and *cresc. poco a poco*). The fourth staff ends with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The score illustrates half position and shifting techniques through various fingerings and dynamic markings.

8 *f*

1 - 1 2 4 0 1 - 1 4 0 - 1 2 *mf* *cresc.*

15 4 - 1 2 4 *f* *cresc. poco a poco*

22 *ff*

Bowing Patterns

Serenade for String Orchestra, movement IV, by Norman Leydon, Grade 3

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The image displays a musical score for a string orchestra, specifically movement IV of 'Serenade for String Orchestra' by Norman Leydon, Grade 3. The score is written for four staves, each representing a different string section (likely Violins I, Violins II, Violas, and Cellos/Double Basses). The music is in 4/4 time and features a variety of bowing patterns, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, often grouped with slurs and accents. Dynamics such as *f* (forte), *ppp* (pianississimo), and *ff* (fortissimo) are indicated. A key signature of one sharp (F#) is shown at the beginning of the first staff. A box labeled 'F' is placed above the fourth staff, and a box labeled 'G' is placed above the eighth staff. The score concludes with the instruction *ff sempre*.

f

ppp

ff

ff sempre

Pivot, Shifting, Hooked Bowings, etc.

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 by J. S. Bach, arr. Merle J. Isaac, Grade 3

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Harmonics: Notation and Execution

From *“Variations on a Well-Known Sea Chantey,”* Grade 3

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The musical score consists of two staves in bass clef. The first staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). It starts with a **(pizz.)** marking above the first measure, which contains a whole note G2 with a finger number '0' below it. The second measure contains a whole note B-flat2 with a finger number '3' above it. The third measure contains a whole note D2 with a finger number '0' below it. The fourth measure contains a whole note E2 with a finger number '2' above it. The fifth measure contains a whole note F2 with a finger number '2' above it. A repeat sign follows, with the first measure of the repeat being a whole note G2 (finger 0) and the second being a whole note B-flat2 (finger 2). The staff then continues with whole notes: D2 (finger 2), E2 (finger 2), F2 (finger 2), G2 (finger 2), A2 (finger 2), and B-flat2 (finger 2). The second staff begins with a **p (D Str.)** marking below the first measure, which contains a whole note G2. The second measure contains a whole note B-flat2. The third measure contains a whole note D2. The fourth measure contains a whole note E2. The fifth measure contains a whole note F2. The sixth measure contains a whole note G2. The seventh measure contains a whole note A2. The eighth measure contains a whole note B-flat2. The ninth measure contains a whole note D2. The tenth measure contains a whole note E2. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The piece is in 4/4 time.